



**CONNECTIONS**  
**ACADEMY®**

by Pearson

# Wyoming Connections Academy

Matt Davidson, Superintendent  
Big Horn County School District #1

Shannon Siebert, School Leader-Principal  
Wyoming Connections Academy



## Big Horn #1 and Wyoming Connections Academy

Big Horn County School District #1



**“Embracing Excellence”**

**Vision** – Embracing a tradition of excellence while preparing individuals for success in an ever-changing world.

**Mission** - The mission of Big Horn County School District #1 is to equip each student with the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary for success.

- Partnered in 2011
- District's vision to innovate and meet students' needs in our changing world
- Served 5,000 students since inception allow any students the option of school choice

# **Mission of Wyoming Connections Academy**

It is the mission of Wyoming Connections Academy to work collaboratively with colleagues, students, and parents to design and develop student-driven education for positive learning experiences.

# Connecting Students to **POWERFUL** Learning



# Typical Students We Serve in K-12

- Bullied
- Academically Struggling
- Students who, due to fear and anxiety caused by a myriad of reasons, including Covid, require a safe and emotionally healthy environment in which to learn.
- Immuno-compromised families and students
- Home School
- Need Flexible Timing and Pacing
- Athletes
- Geographically Isolated
- Pregnant teens, working students, etc.

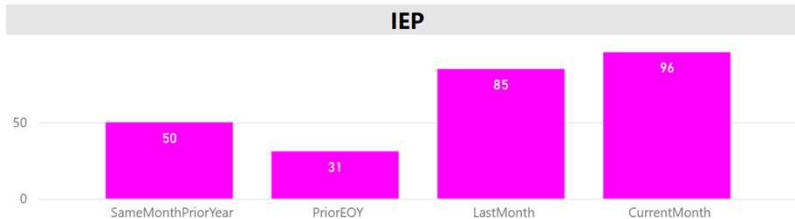
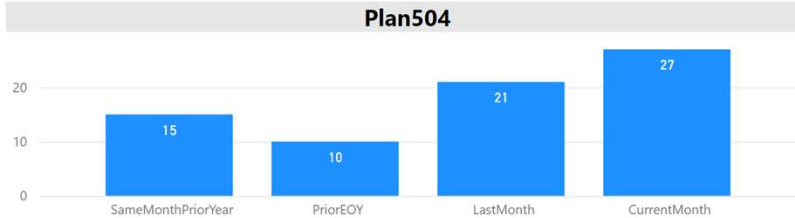


# 670 Wyoming Connections Academy Students 2021-22 SY

## 19% of Wyoming Connections Academy Students Qualify for Special Education Services

Wyoming Connections Academy  
September 30, 2021

### Gifted



### Currently Enrolled

**670**

### Gifted

**(Blank)**

### Plan504

**4%**

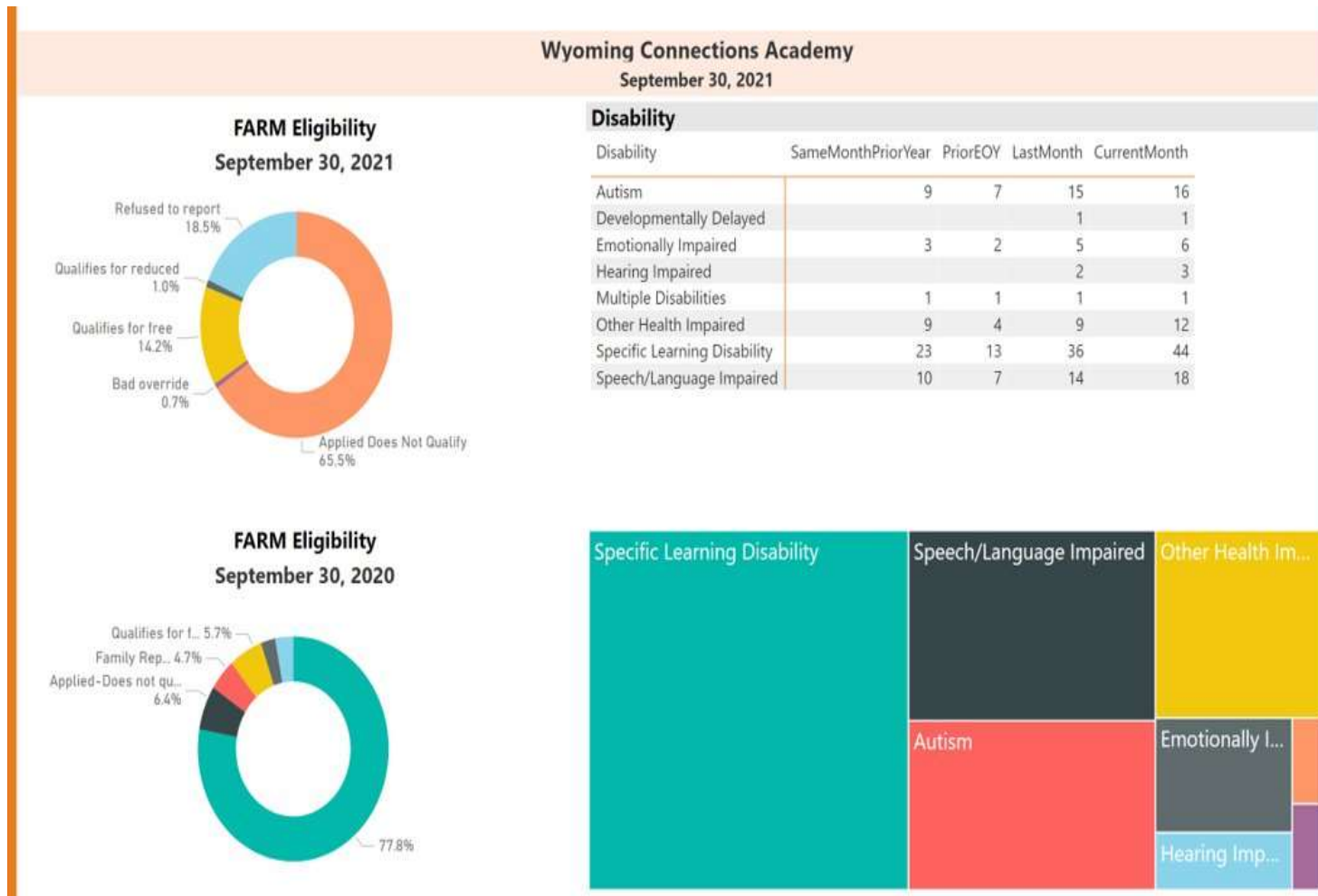
### IEP

**14%**

### Not in Special Population

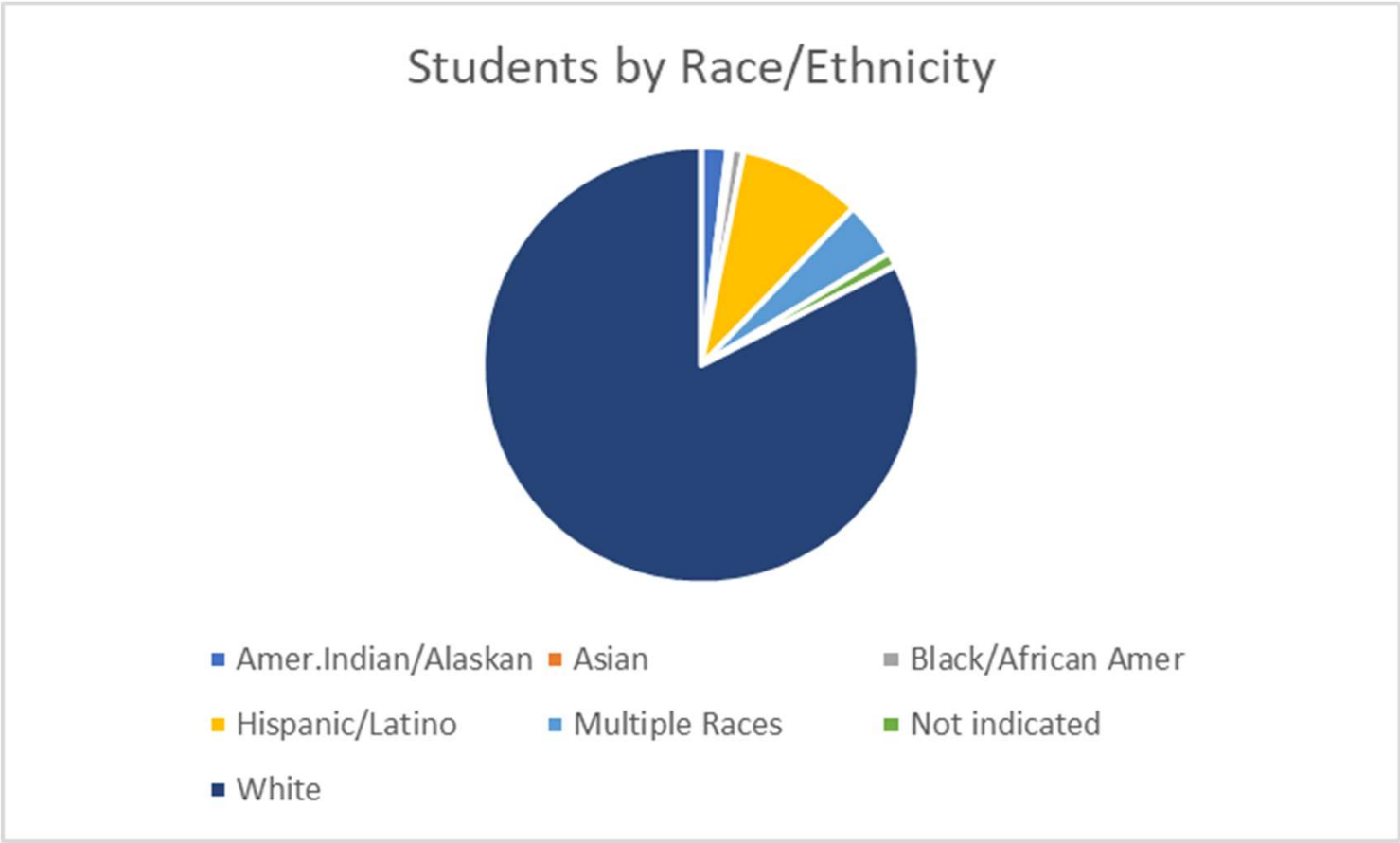
**81%**

# 670 Wyoming Connections Academy Students 2021-22 SY



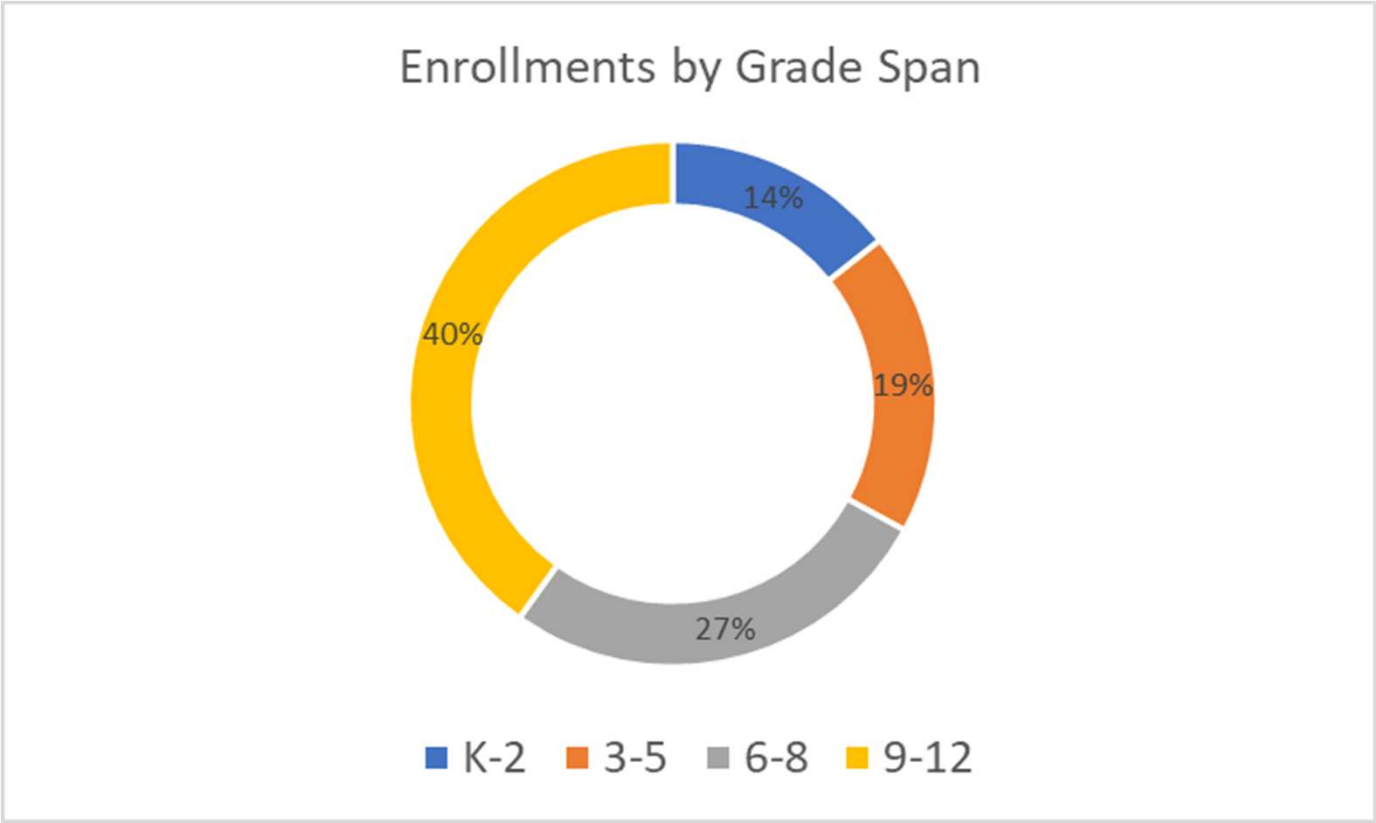


# Student Demographics For Wyoming Connections Academy

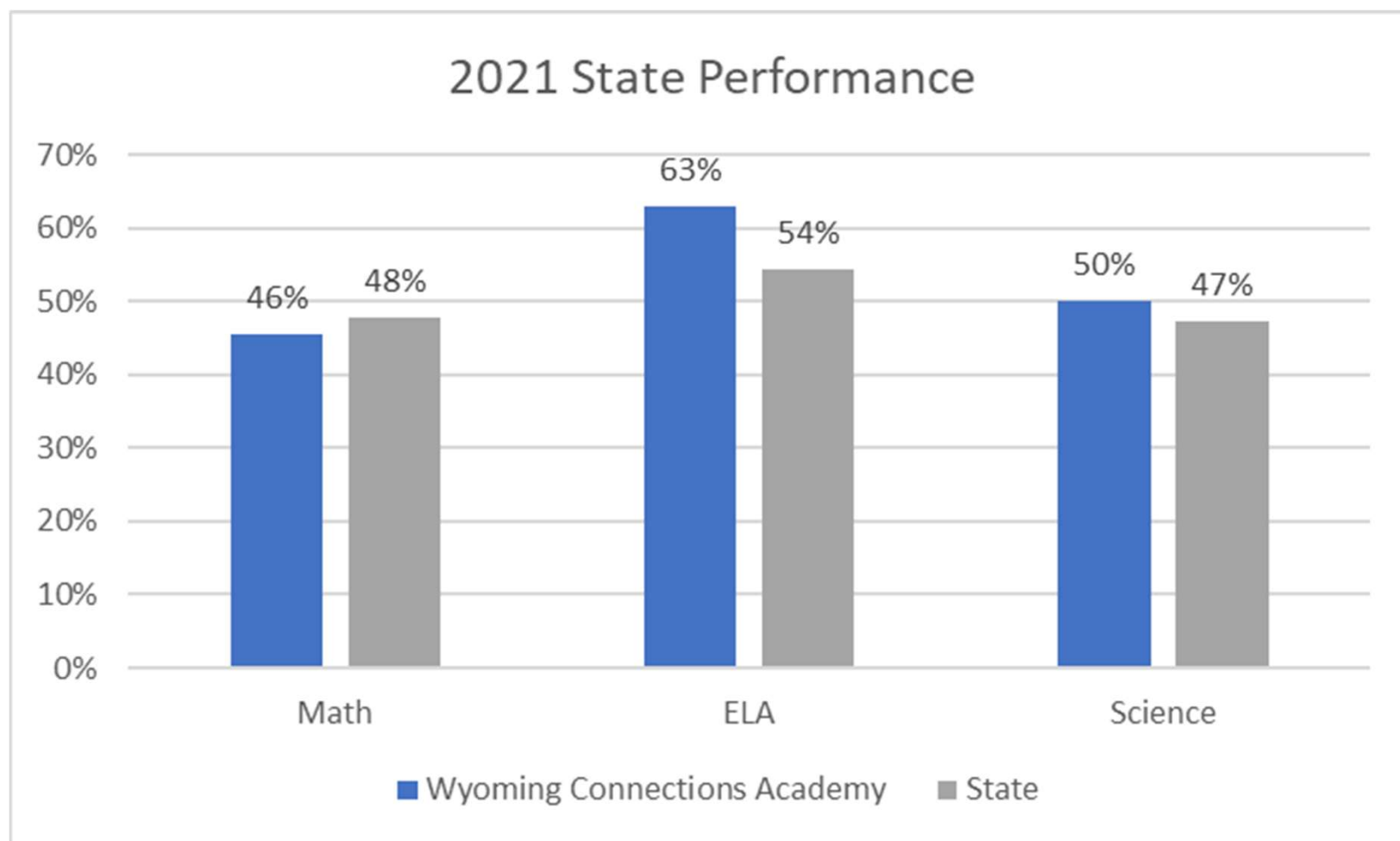




# Grade Span Enrollments For Wyoming Connections Academy

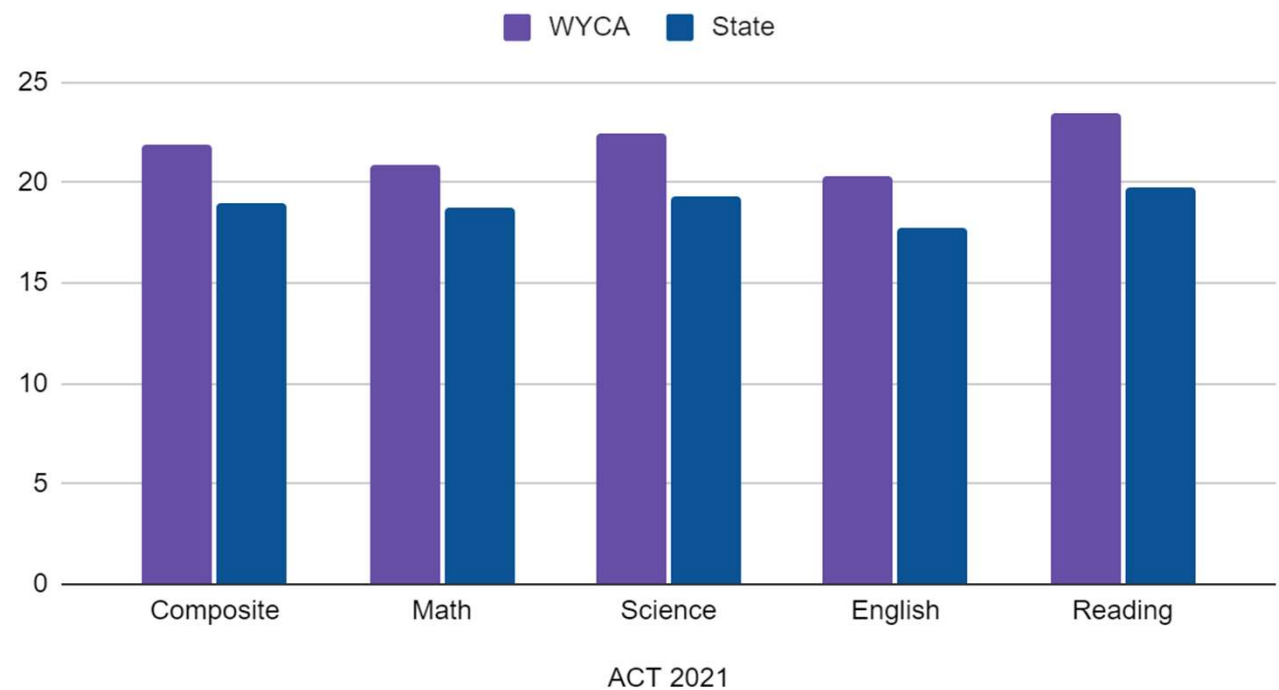


## Student Performance For Wyoming Connections Academy

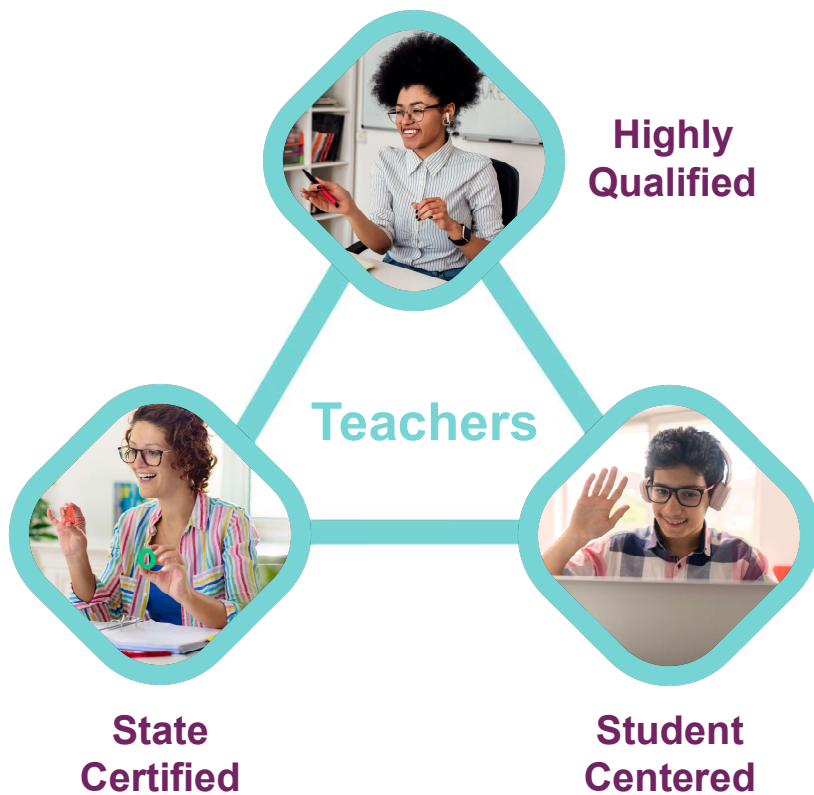


# Student Performance For Wyoming Connections Academy

WYCA and State ACT Scores Spring 2021



# Inspiring Professional Educators



**Molly Mulcahy**  
Wyoming Connections  
Academy Guidance Counselor

## Wyoming Connections Academy Teachers

- All 29 teachers, counselors and administrators are certified by the Professional Teaching Standards Board with current certifications.
- 55% of the staff have Masters's Degrees;
- 20% of staff have multiple Master's degrees or additional courses and credits beyond their Master's degree;
- One staff has an Education Specialist degree.

# How our virtual program serves students

Wyoming Connections Academy provides a unique and innovative instructional model to best meet students' needs offering a virtual public school with all the comprehensive services of a public school including:

- Professional Teaching Standards Board Certified Teachers
- Student services including special education and counseling
- Learning management systems
- Student technology, student help desk, and a facility
- Curriculum
- Administrative Services
- Outreach, enrollment, and academic placement
- Field trips and clubs
- State reporting and state testing

# Student Funding

## SUMMARY OF VIRTUAL SCHOOL EXPENDITURES:

- ☐ Personnel Costs – Salaries and benefits to attract and retain high quality teaching and administrative staff
- ☐ Instructional Support- Professional development, PLCs, instructional materials
- ☐ Curriculum and Platform- Online instructional courses, SIS, physical materials sent to students, and ongoing research to meet best practices and state standard updates
- ☐ Facility Costs – Rent, utilities, maintenance, storage, etc.
- ☐ State Mandated Testing Costs – Rental of facilities, travel of staff to sites, testing materials throughout the state
- ☐ Technology Supports – Student computer and internet subsidies, IT support, school hardware and software, etc.
- ☐ Administrative Functions- Human resources, payroll, accounting, student reporting, school handbooks, etc.
- ☐ Federally Mandated Special Education Services – Psychologists, speech therapists, behavioral therapists, occupational therapists, and other certified professionals and monitoring as needed to fulfill student service requirements
- ☐ Parent Outreach, Enrollment and Placement – Application, enrollment and onboarding support for students that also includes academic placement support
- ☐ Student Field Trips and Clubs – Ongoing extracurricular opportunities for students and families based on their interests as well as staff travel expenditures to oversee these activities



# Student Stories Served by Wyoming Connections Academy



## Dean Anderson

Elementary Student

Dean Anderson is an elementary student at Wyoming Connections Academy. He enjoys Wyoming Connections Academy's comfortable and supportive learning environment. Dean's sister, Ireeann, is also a student at Wyoming Connections Academy. His mom shares more below.

*"Dean really enjoys his teachers, Ms. Midthun and Ms. Vito, because he likes doing LiveLesson sessions and talking with them on the phone."*

"Dean wanted to attend Wyoming Connections Academy because he didn't feel like he was ready to sit in a physical classroom all day. He wanted to be able stay home with the family. Now, at Wyoming Connections Academy, Dean thinks his school is "fun". What works well for him is being able to work at his own pace. Dean likes that he can take a break whenever he needs to. Math is his favorite subject because he likes to learn how to use numbers and find new ways to solve problems. Dean really enjoys the LiveLesson sessions with his teachers, Ms. Midthun and Ms. Vito, and he also likes talking to them on the phone.

Dean starts school at nine in the morning and works very hard to finish up his work. He knows that he can't play until he gets his schoolwork done. When Dean is not doing school work, he likes to play video games with his friends, ride bikes, jump on the trampoline, and play hunting games."

# Student Stories Served by Wyoming Connections Academy



## Sarah Garrison

High School Student

Sarah Garrison is a high school student at Wyoming Connections Academy (WYCA). Her sister, Emily, is also a WYCA student. At WYCA, Sarah is able to maintain a high-quality education while traveling for boxing competitions. She shares more about her experience below.

“What mostly interested me in WYCA was that it had higher standardized scores than my previous bricks-and-mortar school. I also liked that the school offers many interesting clubs and electives. I like that I can plan my lessons and day out to fit my boxing schedule. Last year when I had to miss school to travel for boxing, my teachers either couldn’t give me homework in advance for me to do on the road, or I had no instruction to go with the assignments. WYCA has made it easy to get my work done without missing out on lessons.

I am most passionate about boxing; I have had nine wins. I am training for the National Prep Junior Olympic tournament this year. My boxing schedule is very demanding, so the flexibility of WYCA has given me the chance to become a national champion and a straight A student. I don’t think I would have had the same opportunities in my former traditional public school.”

# Student Stories Served by Wyoming Connections Academy



## Josh McCracken

Graduate

Josh McCracken is a graduate of Wyoming Connections Academy (WYCA). He lives in Cowley, Wyoming, with his grandparents, who served as both his caregivers and Learning Coaches. Josh joined WYCA in eighth grade and made good progress and gained confidence.

Josh attended a bricks-and-mortar school from first grade to seventh grade. During this time, he had difficulty in school and was often placed in an Individualized Education Program (IEP). At the beginning of seventh grade, his problems with school increased, so his grandmother removed him and placed him in an online school. Josh completed seventh grade with that school, but at the end of that year, his grandmother learned about WYCA and transferred him into the program.

After joining WYCA, Josh blossomed. He maintained excellent grades and came to understand that he is intelligent and capable of doing well in school. His self-confidence increased, and he realized that he could accomplish anything he desired.

## Parent Satisfaction Results



91%

Of parents are satisfied with the helpfulness of their child's teacher.



92%

Of parents agree the program provides more involvement in their student's education.



90%

Of parents agree their student is making good progress at Connections Academy.

Based on 2021 Parent Satisfaction Survey